Setting up of a Railway Training Institute at Guwahati

1078. SHRI BHADRESWAR BURAGOHAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under Government's consideration to set up a Railway Training Institute at Guwahati.

(b) if so, by when it is likely to be opened; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) There is demand for setting up a Centralised Railway Training Institute for Staff at Guwahati. The feasibility of the proposal is under examination.

Reinstatement of casual labour of Food Corporation of India, Nalgonda Andhra Pradesh

1079. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that retrenched casual labourers of Food Corporation of India. Nalgonda, Andhra Pradesh, are on agitation since 9th July, 1990 demanding for their reinstatement;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Industrial Tribunal and the Andhra Pradesh High Court had given verdicts in favour of their reinstatement;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Food Corporation of India had decided to honour these judgements;

(d) if so, the reasons for not complying with court's judgements; and

(e) whether Government propose to take any steps for early reinstatement of these retrenched workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SRI RAM PUJAN PATEL): (a) The workers called off the agitation from 10th August, 1990.

(b) The Central Government Industrial Tribunal had held that 82 daily rated casual watchmen, whose services were dispensed with by FCI due to closure of CAP storage at Nalgonda District were entitled for retrenchment compensation from the date of their termination till the date of closure of the Depot under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. The Andhra Pradesh High Court has directed FCI to consider the retrenched workers for re-employment under the ID. Act, 1947 on priority basis as and when vacancies arise.

(c) The FCI paid retrenchment compensation as per the award of the Industrial Tribunal and did not file appeal against the judgement of Andhra Pradesh High Court.

(d) and (e) As per Andhra Pradesh High Court's judgement, FCI is to consider the case for re-appointment of the retrenched workers on priority basis as and when vacancies arise. It has not yet been possible for FCI to reappoint them for want of vacancies. The FCI is, however, making efforts in this direction.

Non-Payment of salaries to staff of National council for safety in mines, Dhanbad

1080. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any memorandum dated the 9th July, 1990 from the National Counci for Safety in Mines Employees Association, Dhanbad, Bihar, regarding non-payment of salaries to staff since May 1990;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) the action taken to disburse workers' salaries due since may, 1990; and

(d) whether Government have taken any decision regarding the future of the National Council for Safety in Mines, Dhanbad and its employees?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Due to financial constraints, the National Council for Safety in Mines (NCSM), was not able to make payment of salary to its staff for the months of May, June and July, 1990.

(c) The salary for the above period was disbursed to the staff on 10-8-90.

(d) The matter is under review.

Purchase of vegetable oils, fruits and vegetables from traders

1081. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that NDDB has been buying vegetable oil directly from traders and not from farmers or their cooperatives thereby enriching the middlemen contrary to Government policies, as brought out by Sunday Mail on the 15th July, 1990; and

(b) whether NDDB has been following same procedures in case of fruits and vegetable project at Delhi and if so, the corrective steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) NDDB buys oil from the associated oilseed grower cooperatives at ruling market prices. Oil is also purchased from the open market at both terminal centres like Bombay and producing centres like Rajkot. Prices paid for oil purchases at terminal markets get reflected as higher oil prices in purchasing centres, in turn giving better prices to oilseed growers. Simultaneously oilseeds are also purchased through the oilseeds growers cooperatives associated with the NDDB in order to ensure remunerative prices to farmers. It is necessary for the NDDB to purchase oil from the open market apart from the oilseed growers cooperatives so as to achieve the objectives of Market Intervention operations.

(b) The procedure followed by the NDDB's Fruit & Vegetable Project is to collect fruits and vegetables from the farmers directly and only in case of non-availability and logistical problems it is purchased from the markets which are run by the Agricultural Produce Marketing Committees.

Utilization of Tetrapak project

1082. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Tetrapak project was approved by Government for marketing of milk and if so, what is the present installed capacity and actual utilization indicating the total investment made so far;

(b) whether Tetrapak project is busy in helping private firms some of those former MNCs to pack tomatos, fruit drinks, etc. and if so, the details of capacity utilization for non-milk products during 1989-90;

(c) what was the value of paper and LDPE and other spares and royalty paid/payable in foreign exchange so far; and

(d) whether Government are aware that Tetrapak feasibility project Report clearly states that only indigenous paper, LDPE was to be used and if so, the reasons for such imports?